Suicide Prevention and Trauma  
Informed Care Task Force  
Meeting Notes

Date November 1, 2013  
Time 8:30 – 10:30  
Location Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gladys Noll Alvarez, Barb Anderson, Penny Bisignano, Sarah Brown, Brian Carico, DeAnn Decker, Amy DeGroot-Hammer, Mary Delagardelle, Meredith Dohmen, Cyndy Erickson, Sharon Guthrie (by phone), Jake Highfill, Laura Larkin, Liz Mathis (by phone), Marianette Miller-Meeks (by phone), Steve Mitchell, Keri Neblett, Ellen McGinnis-Smith, Karolyn Zeller

Absent: Deb Chiodo, Isaiah McGee, David Tilly, Susan Walkup  
Guests: D.T. McGee, Bridget Godez, Mike Cormack

AGENDA ITEM: Welcome, Review and Approval of Minutes

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<tr>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
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<th>Follow Up</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review the draft of the report and make any additions or edits.</td>
<td>Barb Anderson, Dept. of Education</td>
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Notes:  
Regarding minutes from October 25, add information about the connection to the Children’s Mental Redesign Process.  
Motion by Amy to approve the minutes with the addition above, seconded by Representative Highfill. Motion approved.

AGENDA ITEM: Review and discussion of draft report

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Notes:  
Rep. Jake Highfill will prepare the budget part of this report so there are cost estimates identified.  
Themes that should be reflected in the report: resiliency, partnership with IDPH (their suicide prevention program) and evidenced-based training and link to Learning Supports.
The Task Force reviewed draft of the report and provided feedback on the following:

**Suicide Prevention and Trauma Informed Care Training Recommendations**

Page 6: Item 1: It was suggested that rather than recommending a position, make a recommendation for an Office of Suicide Prevention. It is important to communicate what other states have in place and how Iowa compares with them. The Office for Suicide Prevention should coordinate suicide prevention efforts across state departments and various agencies. In addition, suicide prevention efforts should align with the mental health redesign. Representative Highfill commented that he predicts that mental health services will change in the next five years. The goal will be to ensure that funding is ongoing and sustainable; not just a one-time thing. It may be helpful to consider blending the funding from bullying prevention and other programs.

Page 6: Item 2:
Clarification is needed as to whether or not staff will be required to have the training before getting licensed or when renewing their license, whether face-to-face or site-based training be required, and how the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) will be involved. If the training is a condition of licensure, it is important to consider whether or not there is the capacity to manage this requirement.

It was recommended that there needs to be an alternative training option for individuals who are not tied to a specific school site, for example substitute teachers. For the schools to have ongoing activities in school improvement plan and that would provide the on-site plan. Two areas for further consideration are the unanticipated consequences of requiring the training as part of licensure and/or school improvement. If a license is withheld from an individual, it is important for there to be a system that directs the individual to resources and quality training.

It is recommended that the suicide prevention training be a part of the school improvement process in order to have training be more comprehensive and inclusive of both licensed and non-licensed school staff (custodians, bus drivers). If training is tied to licensure through the BOEE, it is important for the BOEE to partner with the Department of Education to identify specific training mandates mandates a specific training, some school districts are doing something different that may be more extensive. The Task Force agreed that training should include both alternative methods for training and be monitored by both the BOEE and the school improvement process.

Because suicide prevention has an established and extensive review of evidenced-based training through the Suicide Prevention and Resource Center’s (SPRC) Best Practices Registry and the National Registry of Evidence-Based Program and Practice, it would be important to defer to these registries than to duplicate the efforts of national experts. The Department of Education would approve the training lists, but refer with the national registries to inform their approval and monitoring.

The Task Force discussed the work groups’ training recommendation differences between suicide prevention and Trauma Informed Care. Consensus was reached that recommendations
for training of suicide prevention and trauma informed care should reflect the same requirements. Both should be monitored through licensure and the school accreditation process.

The training content should be determined at a later time. The Department of Education and the BOEE should work together to develop training, rulemaking, implementation, and monitoring. There needs to be more consideration as to where the Office for Suicide Prevention would be housed. It is important that it is not an unfunded mandate. One of the goals of the Office of Suicide Prevention should be to support focused and intentional collaboration among government agencies regarding suicide prevention, not to expand government.

There was a suggestion to move the protocol recommendation regarding suicide prevention and postvention higher in the document so its importance is clear. It was also recommended that a template be developed for schools. It was noted that Model protocols downloadable and free as part of the SAMHSA High School Suicide Prevention Toolkit, but templates could be created and tailored to Iowa. Monitoring of the required protocols would occur through the school improvement plan.

The time frame to implement protocols and training was reviewed. It is important to provide schools time to prepare. When a law is passed, it is effective July 1 of the following year.

Other Considerations:

- Include AEAs as part the ongoing work team (Learning Supports)
- Coordinate training and content with teacher pre-service
- Expand tiered training approach
- Develop a website to make training information and resources easily accessible.

**AGENDA ITEM:** Review of final reporting writing timeline and designation

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<td>Identify who will be involved in developing the final draft.</td>
<td>Barb Anderson &amp; Ellen McGinnis-Smith Dept. of Education</td>
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**Notes:**
Volunteers for focused writing and edits on the draft:

- Steve Mitchell
- Cyndy Erickson
- Karolyn Zeller
- Sharon Guthrie
- DeAnn Decker
- Gladys Noll Alvarez
**AGENDA ITEM:** Final Comments

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**Notes:**
Meeting adjourned at 10:25.